

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062183

72

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 /116 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/PLC-PM:JAWILLIAMS:ME

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/APU:FORTIZ (DRAFT)

ARA/BC:JKARKASHIAN (DRAFT)

ARA/EP:SPRINGLE (DRAFT)

ARA/NC:FJDEVINE (DRAFT)

ARA/BR:LPEREZ (DRAFT)

PM/SAS:RGREY (DRAFT)

L/PM:JMICHET (SUBSTANCE)

OSD/ISA:COL.THOMAS (DRAFT)

----- 125610

R 281638Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

INFO CINCSO

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062183

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJECT:SALE OF TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON IN LATIN AMERICA

1. FYI: A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE IN-  
QUIRED ABOUT PURCHASE OF THE TOW HEAVY ANTI-TANK/ASSAULT  
WEAPON. VARYING DEGREES OF URGENCY HAVE BEEN INDICATED AL-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 062183

THOUGH AT LEAST ONE NATION HAS SUBMITTED AN URGENT FORMAL

REQUEST. WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT EXISTING PRODUCTION IS COMMITTED ELSEWHERE THROUGH MAY 1977. END FYI.

2. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 4, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973 (CONTE-LONG AMENDMENT) MUST BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF TOW FOR SALE IN LATIN AMERICA. UNTIL YOU ARE INFORMED THAT WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE TOW SYSTEM DOES NOT FALL UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE AMENDMENT, OR IF IT IS FOUND TO BE "SOPHISTICATED", UNTIL A NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER HAS BEEN MADE BY THE PRESIDENT, HOST COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED THE AVAILABILITY PROJECTION MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH ONE. REVIEW OF THIS MATTER IS NOW BEING INITIATED, HOWEVER IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHEN FINAL ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED.

3. IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE HOST GOVERNMENTS ATTACH SOME URGENCY TO ACQUISITION OF TOW, COUNTRY TEAM CONCERNED SHOULD DETERMINE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON AS AN INTERIM WEAPON. LEADTIME FOR LAW IS 12 MONTHS FROM PROCUREMENT. COST ESTIMATED AT DOLS. 67 EACH.

4. IN SUMMARY, SHOULD TOW BE APPROVED FOR SALE IN LATIN AMERICA, LONG LEAD TIMES MAY NOT SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT WOULD SATISFY THOSE REQUIREMENTS. RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALE OF TOW ANTI-TANK WEAPON IN LATIN AMERICA  
**TAGS:** MILI, AR, XM, US  
**To:** BUENOS AIRES MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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